



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

A MARVEL® COMICS EVENT

CIVIL WAR™

STRACZYNSKI

GARNEY



THE WAR AT HOME

PART 6 OF 7

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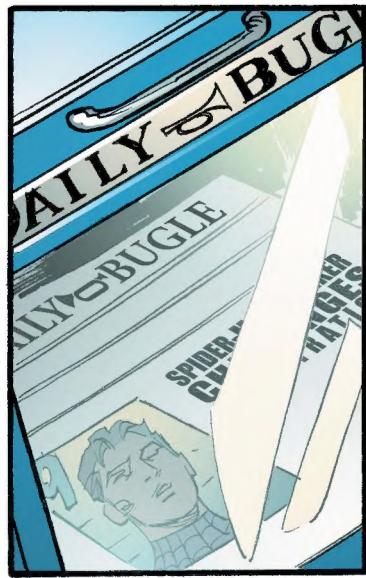
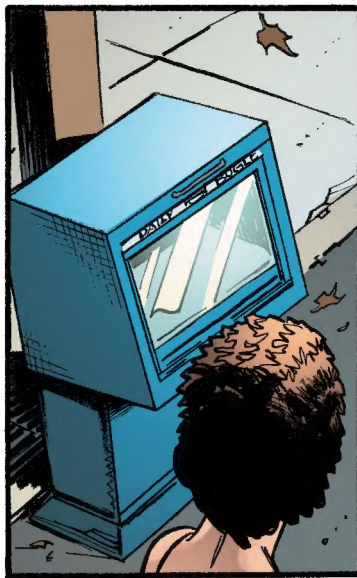
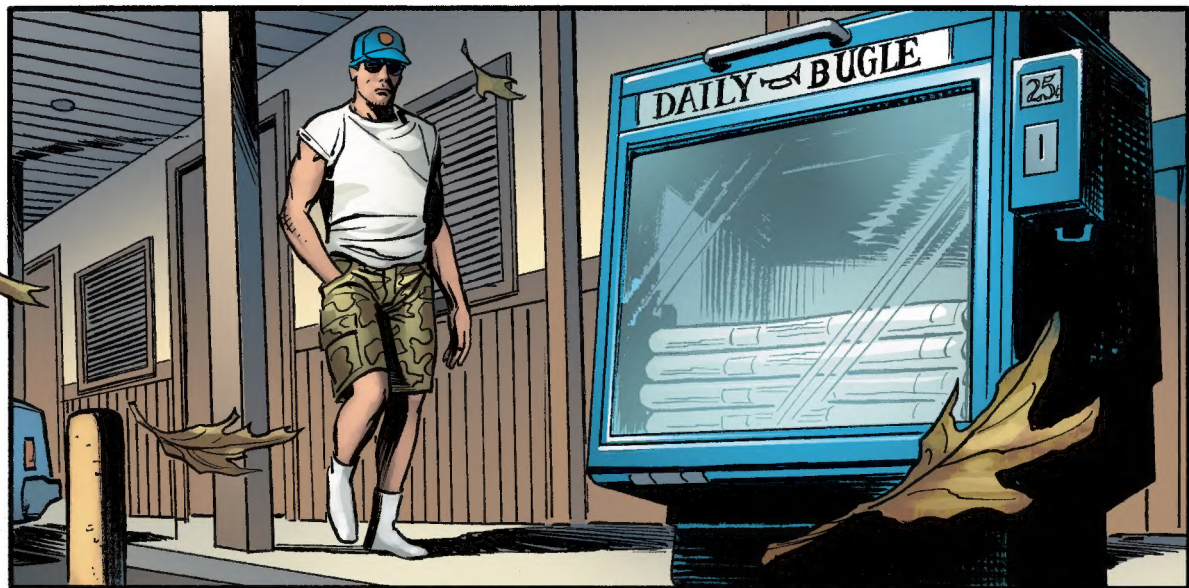
VC'S CORY
PETIT
LETTERER

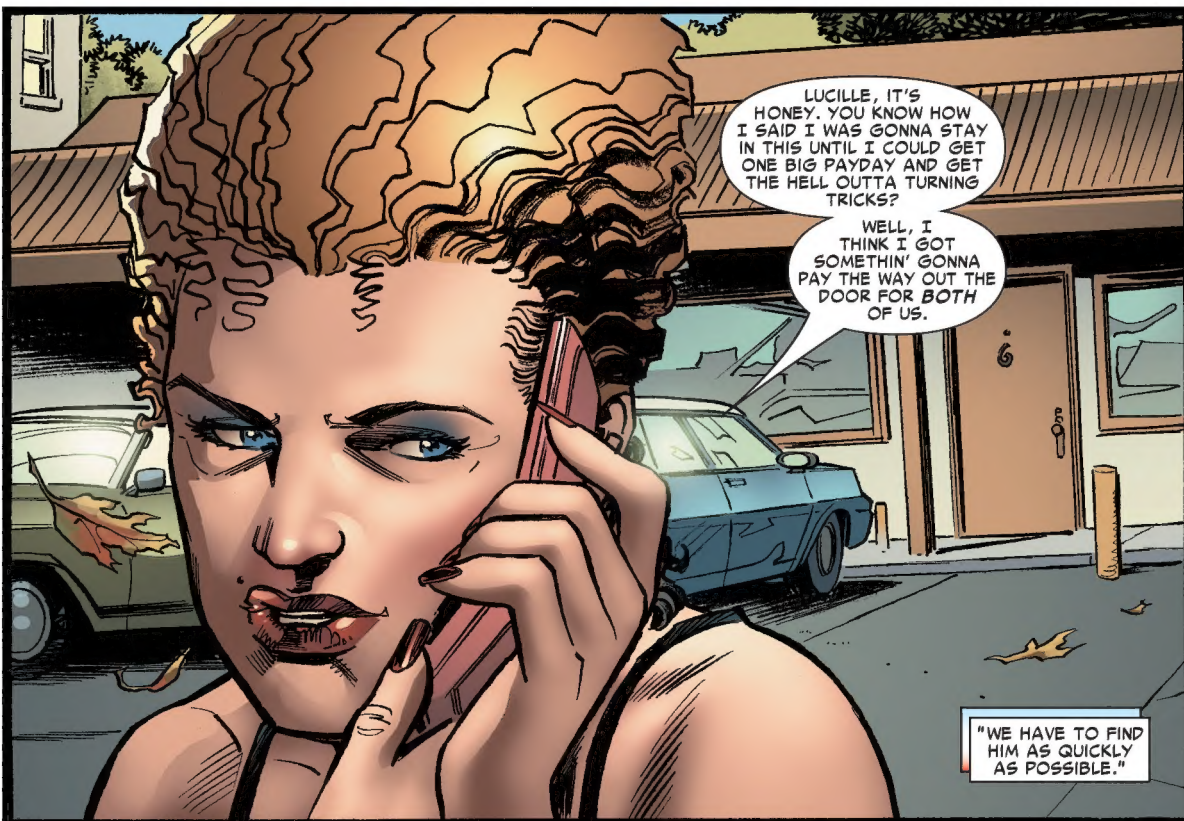
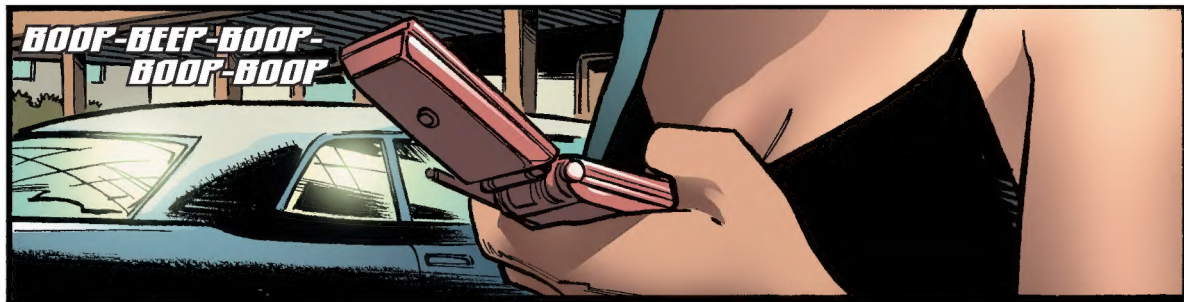
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BECAUSE AFTER THAT LITTLE STUNT LAST NIGHT, STARK WILL DO EVERYTHING IN HIS POWER TO TAKE PETER DOWN. I KNOW HE'S TRYING TO KEEP THE HEAT OFF US BY KEEPING HIS DISTANCE, BUT AT LEAST HERE THERE'S A CHANCE FOR US TO PROTECT HIM.



WE'RE NOT GONNA HAVE MUCH TIME. STARK WILL TURN THIS WHOLE CITY UPSIDE DOWN TO FIND PETER, AND WE DON'T HAVE ANYWHERE NEAR HIS RESOURCES.



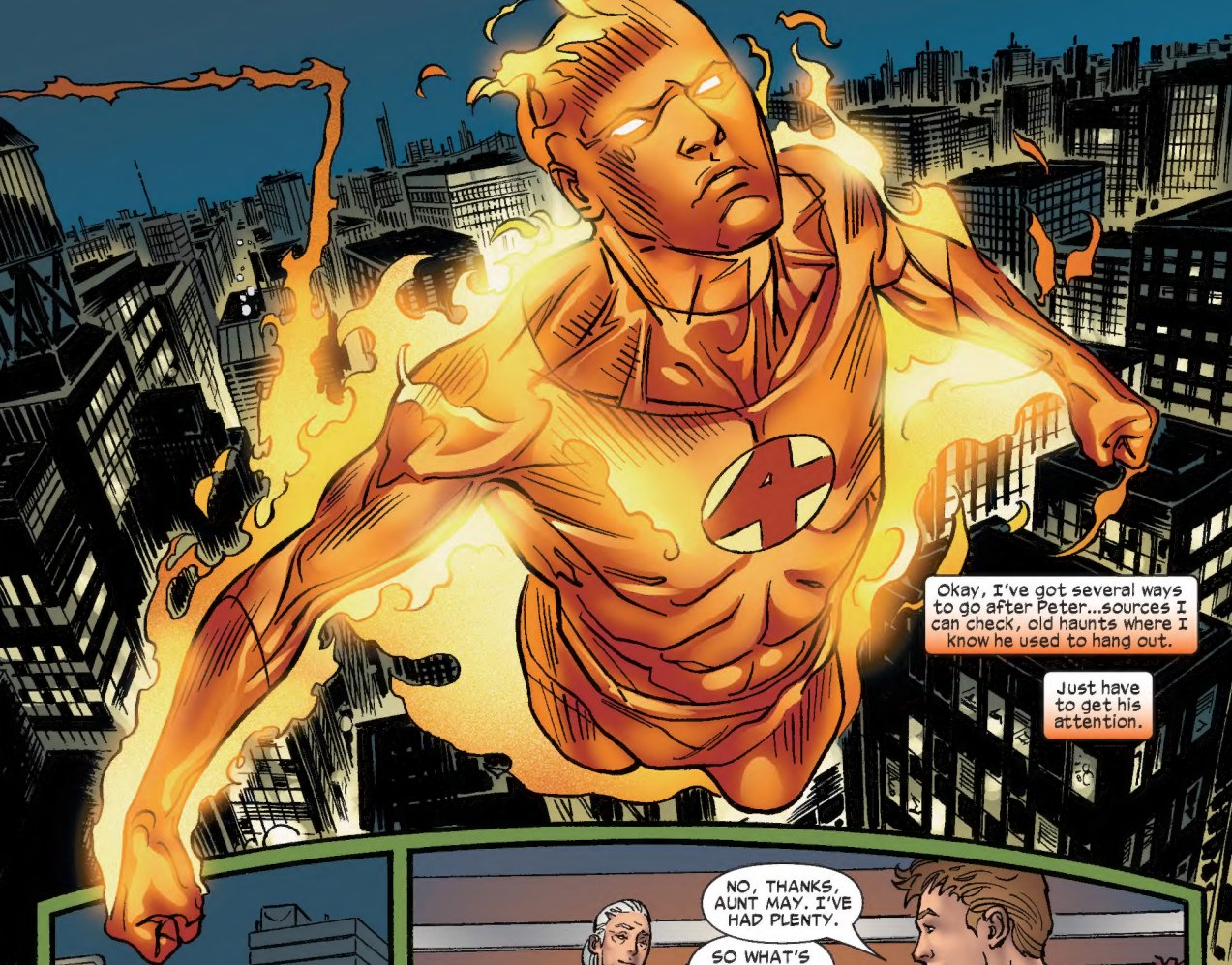
I KNOW. THAT'S WHY I NEED YOU OUT THERE. I KNOW IT MEANS PUTTING YOU AT RISK AS WELL, BUT--

DON'T WORRY.



I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF.

FLAME ON!

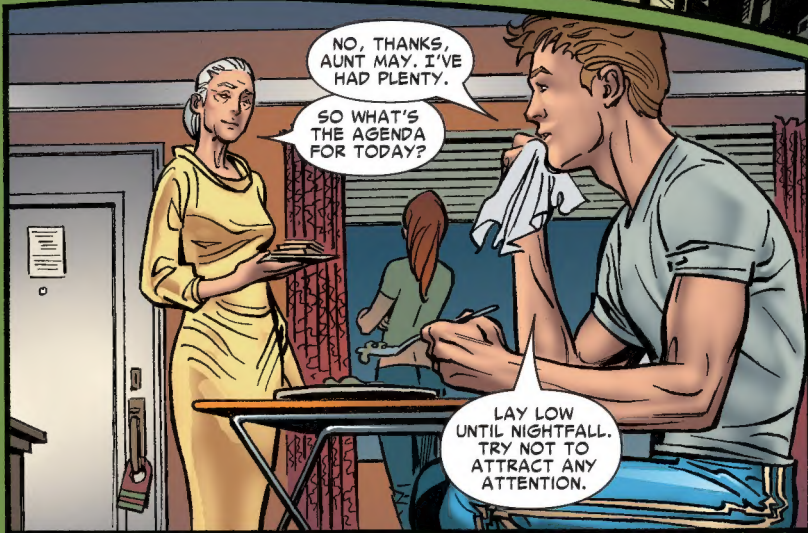


Okay, I've got several ways to go after Peter...sources I can check, old haunts where I know he used to hang out.

Just have to get his attention.



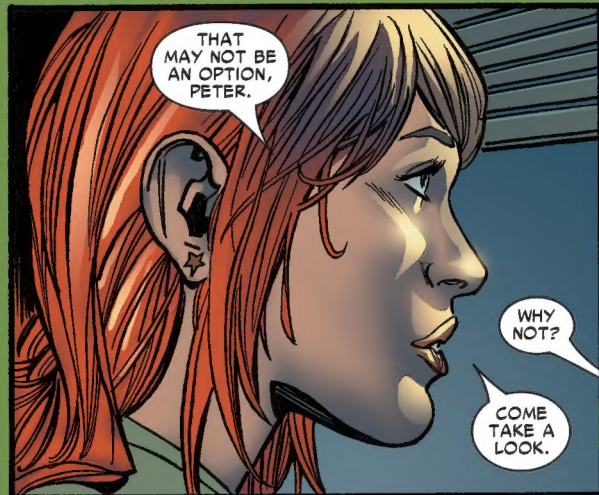
"WOULD YOU LIKE SOME MORE TOAST, PETER?"



NO, THANKS, AUNT MAY. I'VE HAD PLENTY.

SO WHAT'S THE AGENDA FOR TODAY?

LAY LOW UNTIL NIGHTFALL. TRY NOT TO ATTRACT ANY ATTENTION.



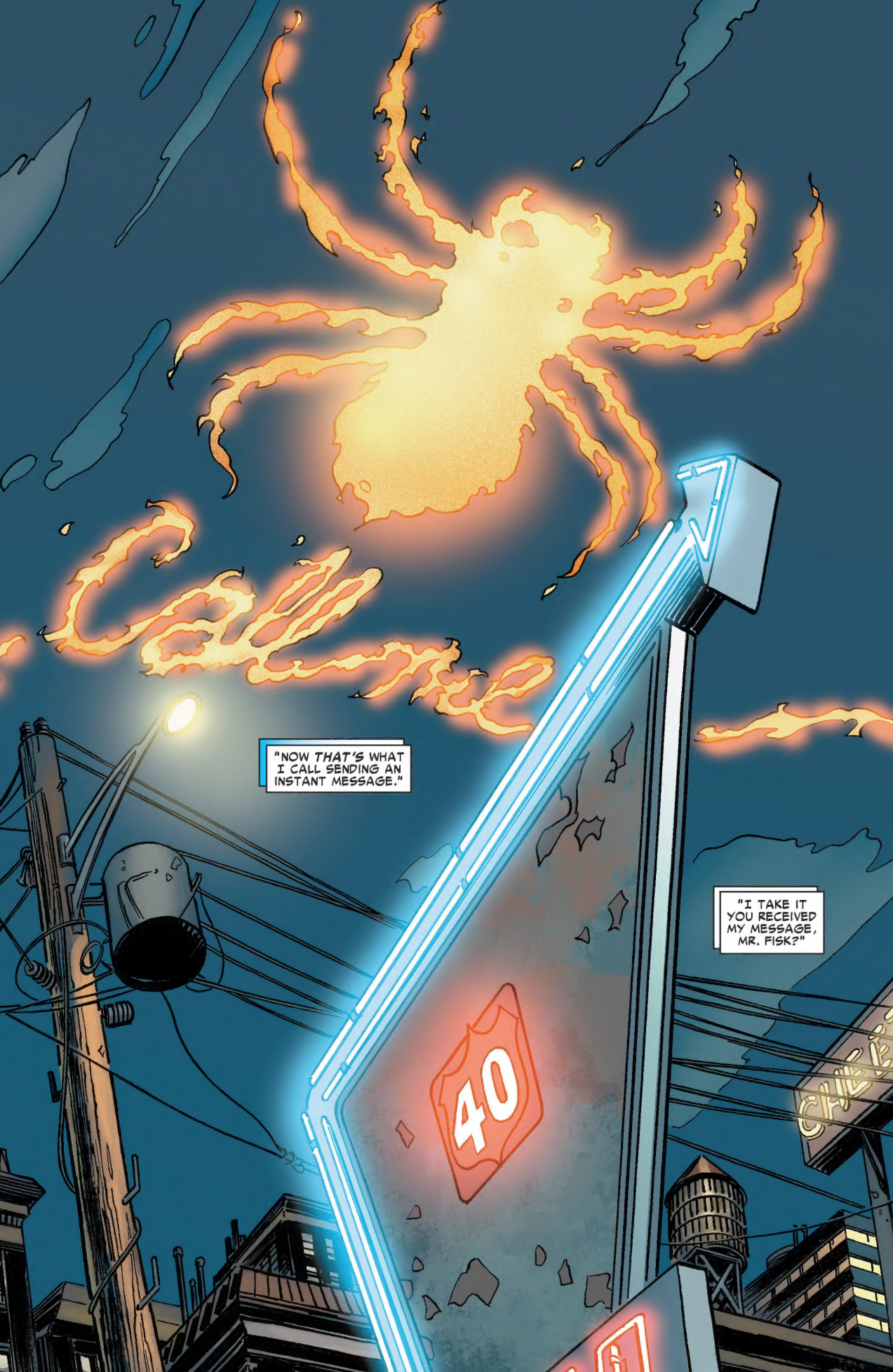
THAT MAY NOT BE AN OPTION, PETER.

WHY NOT?

COME TAKE A LOOK.



OH.



"NOW THAT'S WHAT
I CALL SENDING AN
INSTANT MESSAGE."

"I TAKE IT
YOU RECEIVED
MY MESSAGE,
MR. FISK?"



I DID. THIS HAD BETTER BE GOOD. I WAS JUST ABOUT TO GET MY DAILY MASSAGE.

I THINK YOU WILL FIND THIS OF GREAT INTEREST, MR. FISK.



WE HAVE LOCATED THE INDIVIDUAL OF WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN PREVIOUSLY. I KNOW THAT, AS AN HONEST BUSINESSMAN, YOU WISH THIS PERSON TO RECEIVE THE BONUS HE IS LONG OVERDUE--



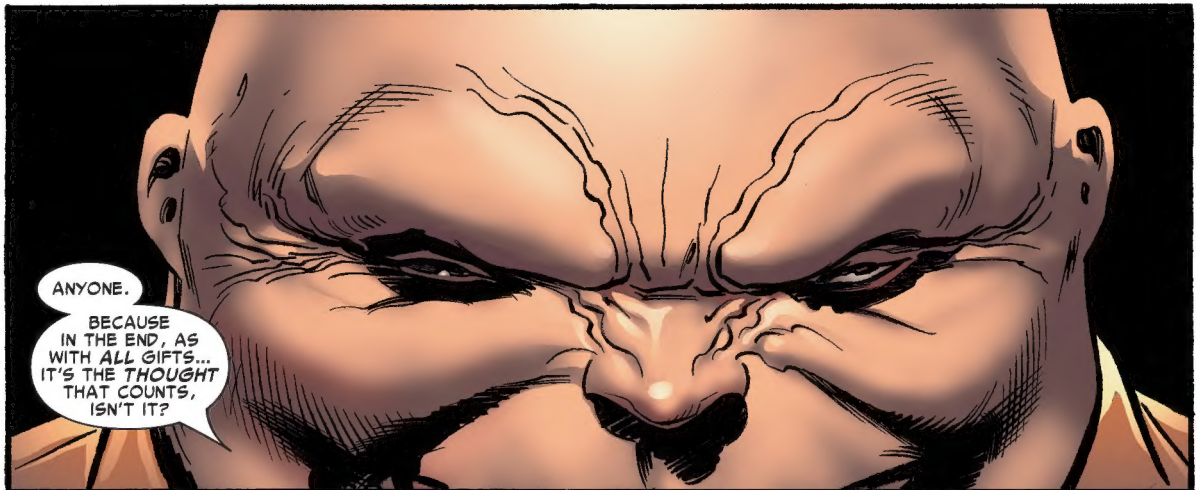
--SO I WANTED TO CHECK WITH YOU TO CONFIRM WHETHER OR NOT YOU STILL WANTED HIM TO GET WHAT'S COMING TO HIM.



ABSOLUTELY. I WANT HIM TO GET NOTHING BUT THE VERY BEST.

AND I WANT IT DONE IMMEDIATELY-- TODAY, IF POSSIBLE. WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE ANY TIME IN CASE HE MOVES.







SO YOU'RE GOING TO LOOK FOR HIM?

I'M GOING.

YOU REALIZE THIS COULD BE A TRAP.

THE THOUGHT HAD OCCURRED TO ME.



BUT YOU TRUST HIM.

THIS ISN'T A TIME FOR TRUST.

THEN WHY GO?

BECAUSE THIS ISN'T A MATTER OF TRUST.

COULD STARK THINK OF ASKING PETER TO GO THROUGH ALL THIS JUST SO HE COULD GET CLOSE TO US AND SET US UP?

ABSOLUTELY.

WOULD PETER GO ALONG WITH IT?

MAYBE.



BUT I'VE WORKED WITH PETER, AND THE THING ABOUT HIM IS THAT HE'S THE WORST LIAR I'VE EVER SEEN. HE HAS TOO MUCH RESPECT FOR THE TRUTH, SO WHEN HE LIES, IT SHOWS.



AND WHAT I SAW ON HIS FACE LAST NIGHT WAS THE UNVARNISHED TRUTH.

I'M NOT ARGUING.

BUT IT'S JUST AS POSSIBLE THAT STARK MANEUVERED PARKER INTO THIS POSITION, SO HE'D DO EXACTLY WHAT HE'S DOING.

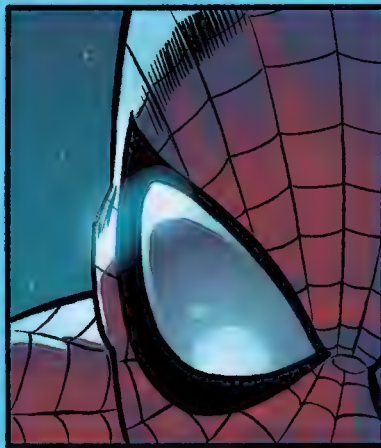
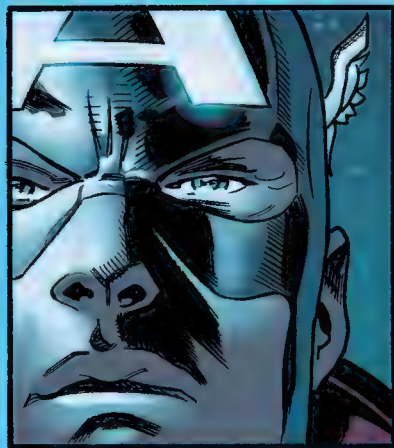
THAT HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH AS HE SEES IT DOESN'T MEAN HE ISN'T BEING USED.

AND IF HE'S BEING USED, THEN YOU'RE BEING USED...AND THAT'S DANGEROUS.



IT'S POSSIBLE, STEVE...

"...AND YOU
KNOW IT'S
POSSIBLE."



THAT
WAS A VERY
BRAVE THING
YOU DID.

THANKS.

FOOLISH,
BUT BRAVE.

SO IT
WAS THE
WRONG THING
TO DO?

I DIDN'T
SAY THAT. BUT IT
DOES PUT YOU
AT EVEN GREATER
RISK.

I HAD TO GET
A MESSAGE OUT, TO
THE PEOPLE, SO THEY'D
UNDERSTAND WHAT'S
GOING ON.

EXCEPT, OF
COURSE, THAT THE
MEDIA IGNORED EVERY-
THING ABOUT THE PRISON,
AND SPENT ALL THEIR
TIME TALKING ABOUT HOW
YOU WERE CHALLENGING
THE GOVERNMENT.

THEY'VE GOT YOU
PEGGED AS A BENEDICT
ARNOLD AND A TRAITOR TO
THE AMERICAN CAUSE.

THEY'VE BEEN
SAYING WORSE ABOUT
YOU LATELY.

I
KNOW.

SO HOW
DO YOU DEAL
WITH IT?

I'VE SEEN THAT
LOOK BEFORE...
YOU'VE GOT A
STORY, DON'T
YOU?

PETER--

C'MON,
GRAMPA
STEVE...
TELL US A
STORY.

WHEN THE WHOLE
COUNTRY IS AGAINST
YOU...WHEN IT'S ALL
BEARING DOWN ON YOU
LIKE SOME KIND OF TEN-
TON WEIGHT, AND YOU
DON'T KNOW YOUR OWN
HEART ANYMORE
SOMETIMES--


HOW DOES
THE MAN WHO IS THE
COUNTRY REACT WHEN
THE COUNTRY GOES A
DIFFERENT WAY?

YOU
REALLY WANT
TO KNOW?

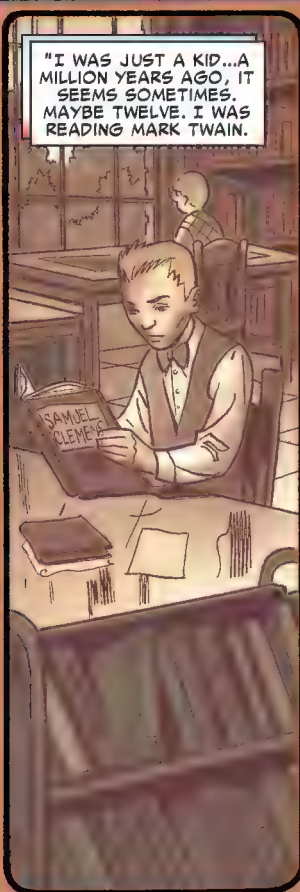
I DON'T
WANT TO KNOW,
CAP--

I
NEED TO
KNOW.


--HOW DOES
SOMEONE LIKE YOU
DEAL WITH IT? I MEAN,
YOU PRACTICALLY
ARE THE COUNTRY.



I REMEMBER
THE FIRST TIME I
REALLY *UNDERSTOOD*
WHAT IT WAS TO BE AN
AMERICAN...WHAT IT
WAS TO BE A
PATRIOT.




"I WAS JUST A KID...A
MILLION YEARS AGO, IT
SEEMS SOMETIMES.
MAYBE TWELVE. I WAS
READING MARK TWAIN.




"AND HE WROTE SOMETHING
THAT STRUCK ME RIGHT
DOWN TO MY CORE...SOME-
THING SO POWERFUL, SO
TRUE, THAT IT CHANGED
MY LIFE. I MEMORIZED IT
SO I COULD REPEAT IT TO
MYSELF, OVER AND OVER
ACROSS THE YEARS. HE
WROTE--

"IN A REPUBLIC, WHO
IS 'THE COUNTRY?'



"IS IT THE GOVERNMENT
WHICH IS FOR THE MOMENT
IN THE SADDLE? WHY, THE
GOVERNMENT IS MERELY A
TEMPORARY SERVANT; IT
CANNOT BE ITS PREROGATIVE
TO DETERMINE WHAT IS RIGHT
AND WHAT IS WRONG, AND
DECIDE WHO IS A PATRIOT
AND WHO ISN'T. ITS FUNCTION
IS TO OBEY ORDERS, NOT
ORIGINATE THEM.



"WHO, THEN,
IS 'THE COUNTRY?'
IS IT THE NEWSPAPER?
IS IT THE PULPIT? WHY,
THESE ARE MERE PARTS
OF THE COUNTRY, NOT
THE WHOLE OF IT; THEY
HAVE NOT COMMAND,
THEY HAVE ONLY THEIR
LITTLE SHARE IN THE
COMMAND.

"IN A MONARCHY, THE KING AND HIS FAMILY ARE THE COUNTRY; IN A REPUBLIC, IT IS THE COMMON VOICE OF THE PEOPLE. EACH OF YOU, FOR HIMSELF, BY HIMSELF AND ON HIS OWN RESPONSIBILITY, MUST SPEAK.



"IT IS A SOLEMN AND WEIGHTY RESPONSIBILITY, AND NOT LIGHTLY TO BE FLUNG ASIDE AT THE BULLYING OF PULPIT, PRESS, GOVERNMENT, OR THE EMPTY CATCHPHRASES OF POLITICIANS.



"EACH MUST FOR HIMSELF ALONE DECIDE WHAT IS RIGHT AND WHAT IS WRONG, AND WHICH COURSE IS PATRIOTIC AND WHICH ISN'T. YOU CANNOT SHIRK THIS AND BE A MAN.



"TO DECIDE IT AGAINST YOUR CONVICTIONS IS TO BE AN UNQUALIFIED AND INEXCUSABLE TRAITOR, BOTH TO YOURSELF AND TO YOUR COUNTRY, LET MEN LABEL YOU AS THEY MAY.

"IF YOU ALONE OF ALL THE NATION SHALL DECIDE ONE WAY, AND THAT WAY BE THE RIGHT WAY ACCORDING TO YOUR CONVICTIONS OF THE RIGHT, YOU HAVE DONE YOUR DUTY BY YOURSELF AND BY YOUR COUNTRY. HOLD UP YOUR HEAD. YOU HAVE NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF."



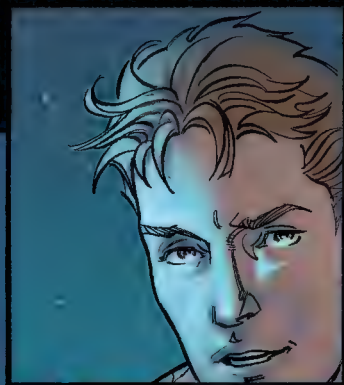
DOESN'T MATTER
WHAT THE PRESS SAYS.
DOESN'T MATTER WHAT THE
POLITICIANS OR THE MOBS SAY.
DOESN'T MATTER IF THE WHOLE
COUNTRY DECIDES THAT
SOMETHING WRONG IS
SOMETHING RIGHT.

THIS NATION
WAS FOUNDED ON ONE
PRINCIPLE ABOVE ALL ELSE:
THE REQUIREMENT THAT WE
STAND UP FOR WHAT WE
BELIEVE, NO MATTER THE
ODDS OR THE
CONSEQUENCES.

WHEN THE MOB
AND THE PRESS AND THE
WHOLE WORLD TELL YOU
TO MOVE, YOUR JOB IS TO
PLANT YOURSELF LIKE A TREE
BESIDE THE RIVER OF TRUTH,
AND TELL THE WHOLE
WORLD--

--"NO,
YOU MOVE."





CAN I, LIKE,
CARRY YOUR BOOKS
TO SCHOOL?

FOR THE
REST OF MY
LIFE?



COME ON...
TIME TO GET YOU
BACK TO THE REST
OF THE GROUP.

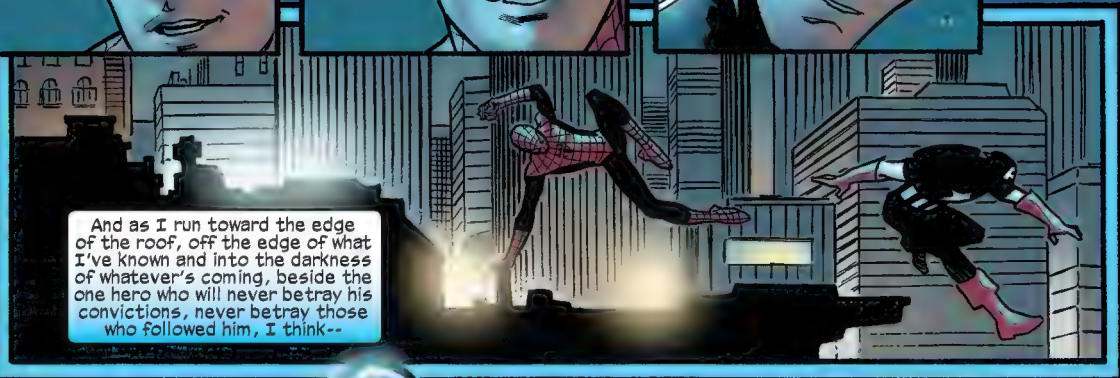
I MEAN
IT.

I CAN GIVE
YOU MY LUNCH. MY
AUNT MADE TUNA
SANDWICHES.

AGAIN.



And as I run toward the edge
of the roof, off the edge of what
I've known and into the darkness
of whatever's coming, beside the
one hero who will never betray his
convictions, never betray those
who followed him, I think--



--it feels good
to be on the
right side again.



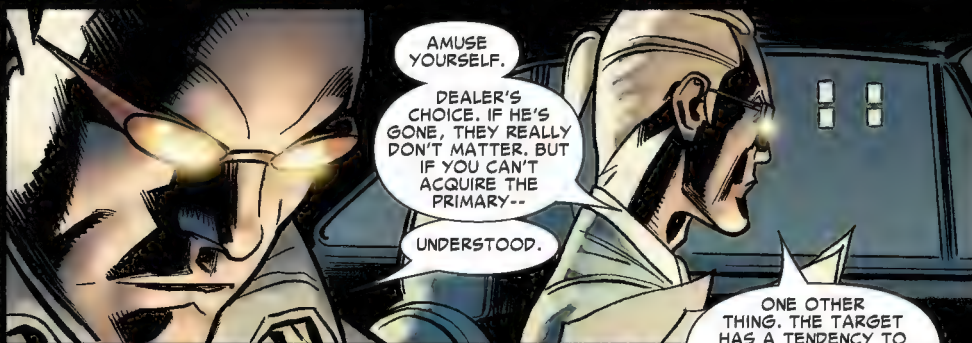
YOU'VE
GOT AN
ADDRESS?



THE ADDRESS, AND
YOUR FEE, ARE BOTH
IN THE ENVELOPE.

MY CLIENT
WISHES TO REINFORCE
THAT YOU WILL ONLY
HAVE, AT BEST, ONE SHOT
AT THE PRIMARY TARGET,
SO MAKE THE BEST
OF IT.

AND THE
SECONDARY
TARGETS?

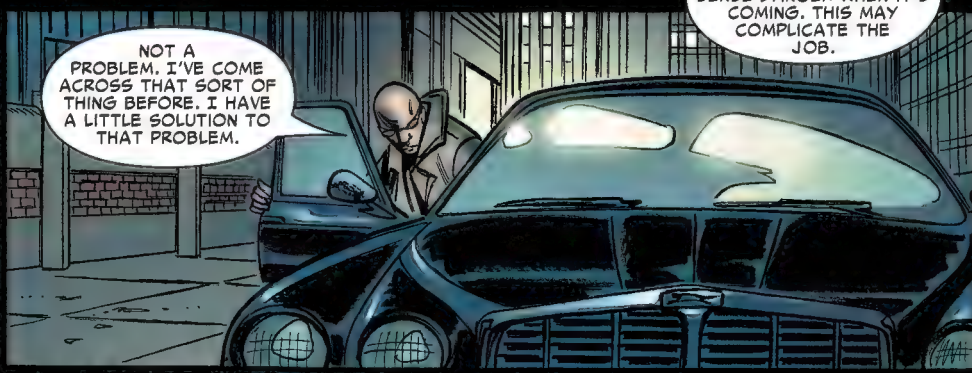


AMUSE
YOURSELF.

DEALER'S
CHOICE. IF HE'S
GONE, THEY REALLY
DON'T MATTER. BUT
IF YOU CAN'T
ACQUIRE THE
PRIMARY--

UNDERSTOOD.

ONE OTHER
THING. THE TARGET
HAS A TENDENCY TO
SENSE DANGER WHEN IT'S
COMING. THIS MAY
COMPLICATE THE
JOB.

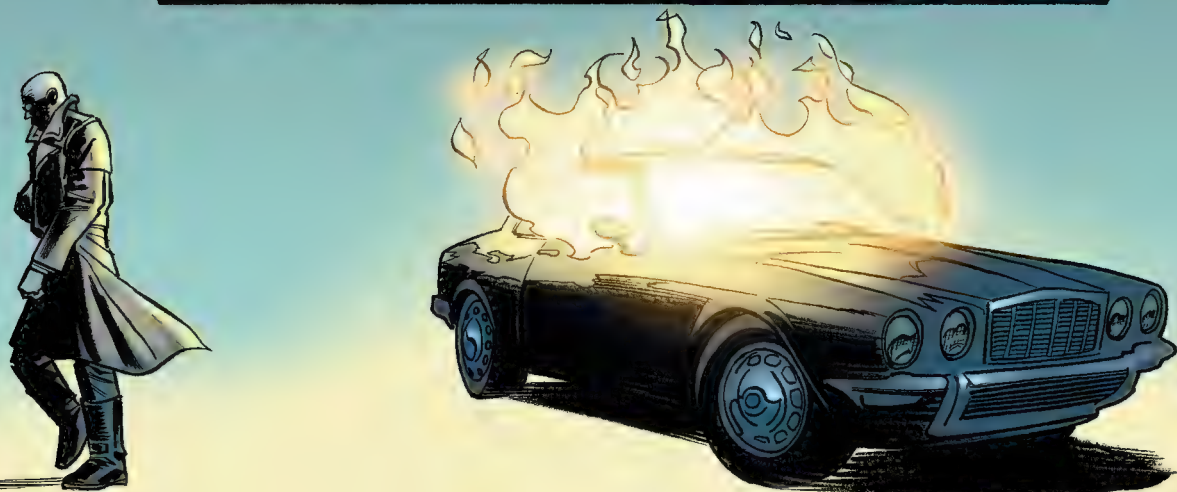
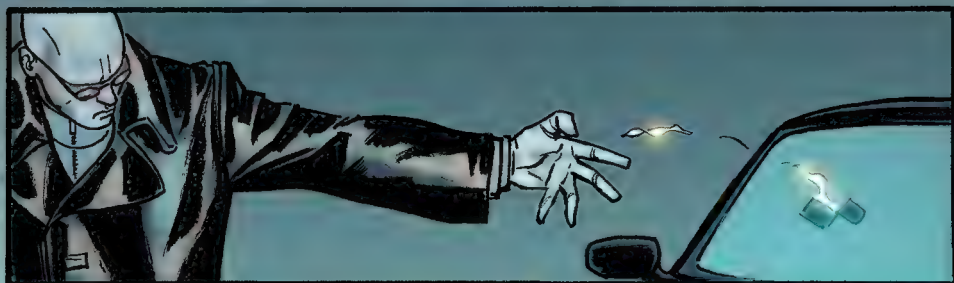
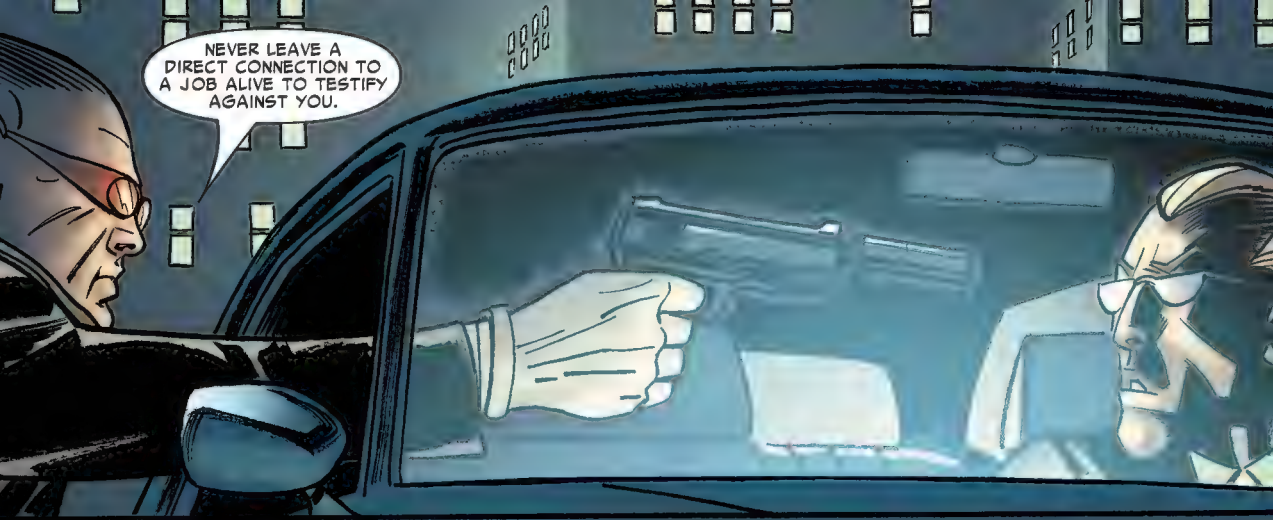


NOT A
PROBLEM. I'VE COME
ACROSS THAT SORT OF
THING BEFORE. I HAVE
A LITTLE SOLUTION TO
THAT PROBLEM.



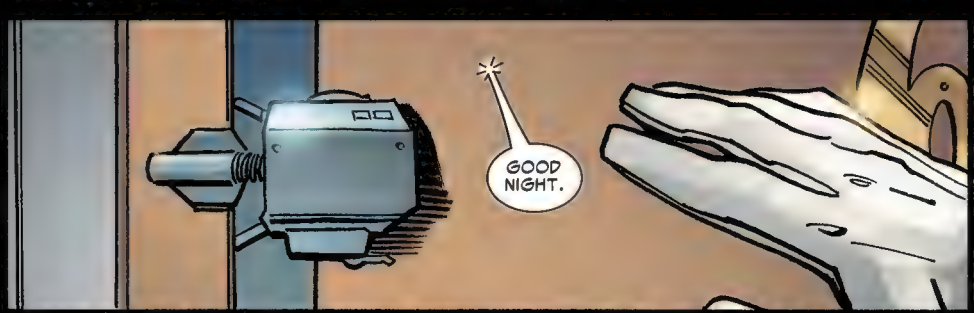
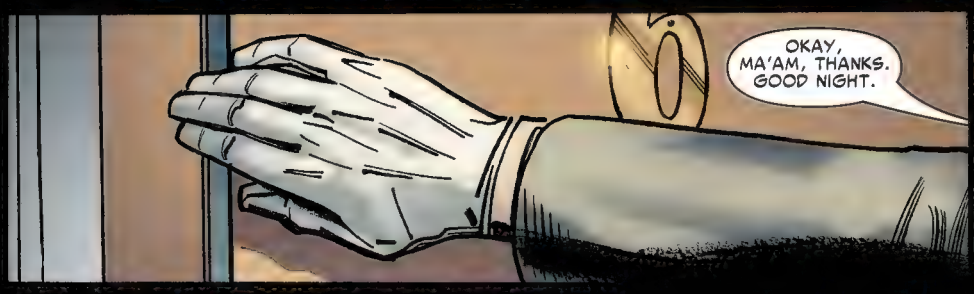
IT'S CALLED
SLEEPING ON THE JOB.
IT'S ONE OF MY TWO
TRADE SECRETS.

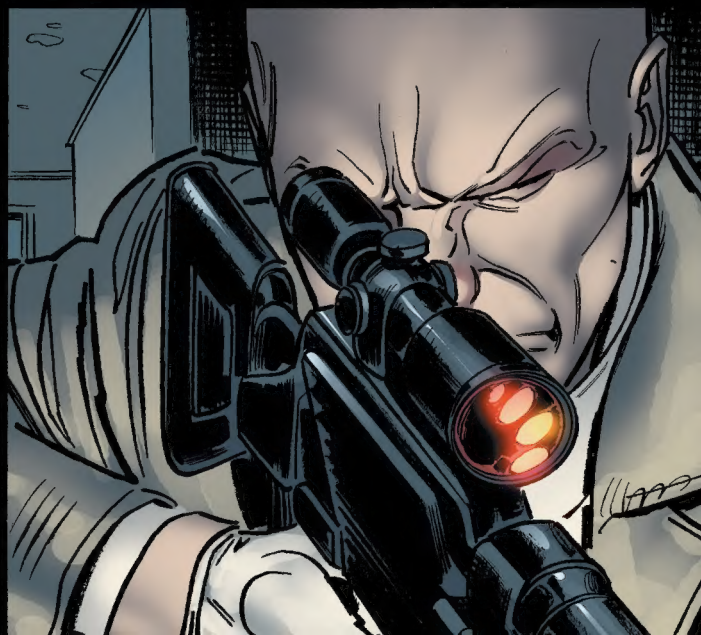
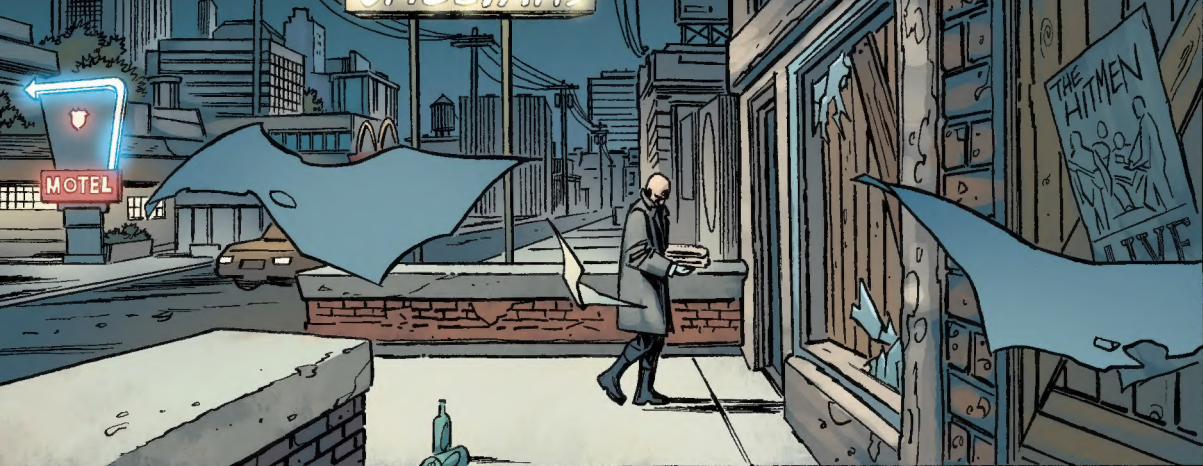
YEAH?
WHAT'S THE
OTHER?





NOK NOK





"YOU DID
A VERY BRAVE
THING, PETER."



I MEAN, IT TAKES A
LOT OF COURAGE TO CHANGE
YOUR MIND ABOUT SOMETHING
AFTER GOING SO FAR DOWN THE
ROAD. SAYING "I WAS WRONG,"
HAS TO BE THE HARDEST
SENTENCE IN THE ENGLISH
LANGUAGE.

ACTUALLY, THE
HARDEST SENTENCE IN THE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE IS,
"WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH
MY WIFE?" THERE'S NEVER A
REALLY GOOD ANSWER TO
THAT ONE.

YOU'VE COME
AT A GOOD TIME, PETER.
WE'RE MOVING TOWARD A
FINAL SHOWDOWN WITH
TONY'S FORCES. WE COULD
USE ALL THE HELP WE
CAN GET.

WELL, I'LL DO
WHATEVER I CAN.
BUT IT LOOKS TO ME
LIKE YOU'VE GOT
IT COVERED.

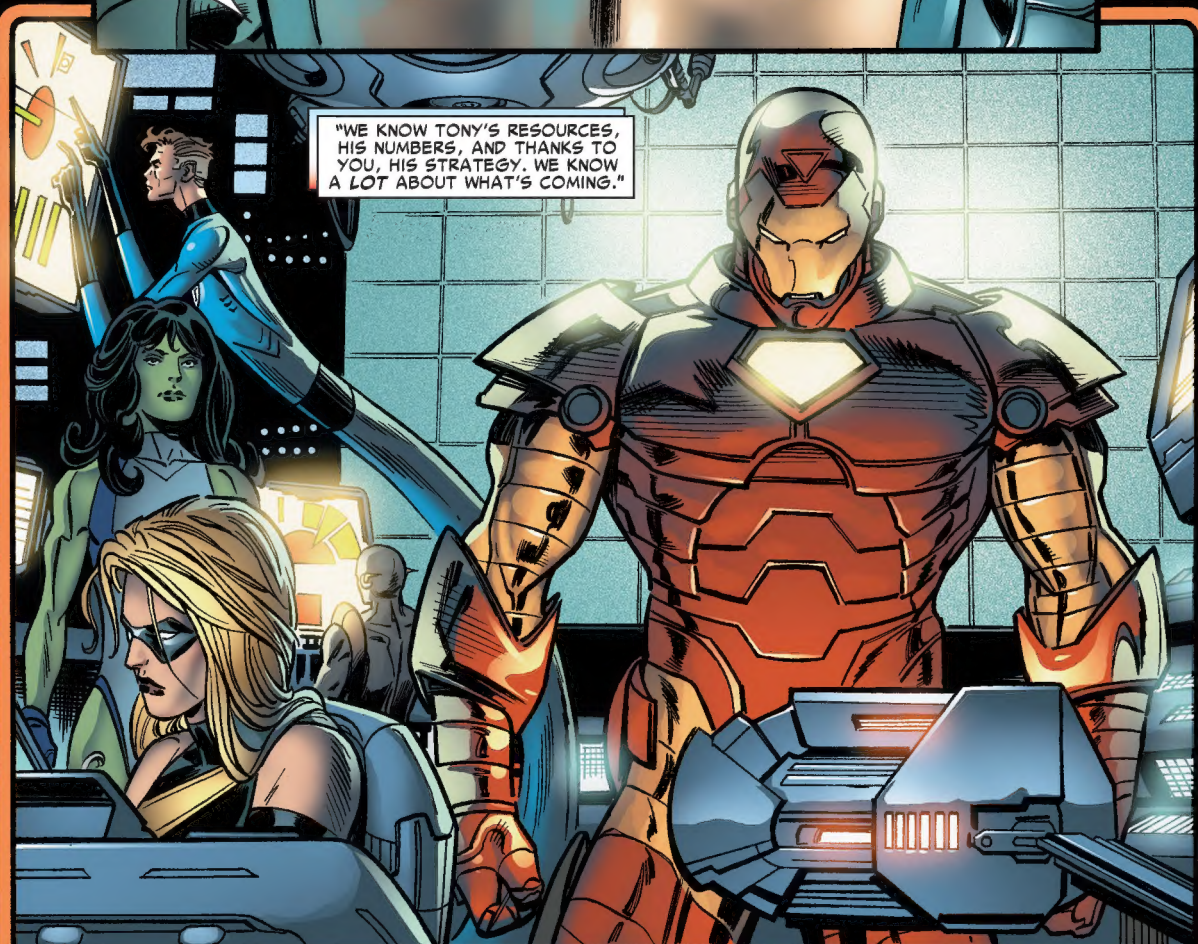


I HOPE SO. WHEN YOU GO INTO BATTLE, THERE ARE THREE ELEMENTS TO PLANNING OUT THE ENGAGEMENT. YOU HAVE TO BE SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU KNOW, AND YOU HAVE TO KNOW WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW.

SO WHAT'S NUMBER THREE?

THREE'S THE DIFFICULT PART. BECAUSE THERE ARE ALWAYS SOME THINGS THAT YOU DON'T KNOW YOU DON'T KNOW. AND THOSE ARE THE THINGS THAT CAN GET YOU KILLED.

"WE KNOW TONY'S RESOURCES, HIS NUMBERS, AND THANKS TO YOU, HIS STRATEGY. WE KNOW A LOT ABOUT WHAT'S COMING."



KNOWING SO MUCH JUST MAKES ME ALL THE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT IT IS THAT WE DON'T KNOW.

I THINK YOU'RE WORRYING TOO MUCH. YOU'RE THE BEST TACTICAL BRAIN ON THE PLANET--



"--I'M SURE THERE'S
NOTHING YOU LEFT OUT
OF THE EQUATION."



TO BE CONTINUED...